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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1958

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22

Rateable Value: £143,340 (1.4.59)

Estimated sum represented by a penny rate for year 1958-1959: £497

Number of inhabited houses: 7,043 (1.4.59)

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 19,790

Census Population 1951: 20,220

Birth Rate	..	..	15·6
(Corrected)		..	17·0
Death Rate	..	..	10·6
(Corrected)		..	9·8
Infant Mortality Rate			16·2

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor H. Palmer.

COUNCILLORS

J. W. Aves (from June, 1958).

H. R. Baker.

R. S. T. Bowden (from June, 1958).

J. H. Budden.

J. P. Clark (to May, 1958).

F. Murfet.

J. T. Nunn.

J. G. A. Paul.

C. C. Petch (to May, 1958).

H. J. Sadler.

C. F. Sargeant.

Mrs. J. O. Smith.

A. H. Trinder.

Mrs. M. West (from June, 1958).

Rev. P. R. K. Whitaker.

C. W. L. Woollard, J.P. (to April, 1958).

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: P. A. Tyser, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: D. Howells, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector: F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H.

Clerk: Miss S. Furze.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 22/58 dated 9th December, 1958, and is the last I shall be writing for you as on 1st March, 1959, I take up my appointment as County Medical Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council. My successor, Dr. J. Drummond, takes up his appointment on 1st April and although he will be presenting this report the substance of it is of my own devising.

Vital Statistics.

In previous reports I have referred to the fact that the population of the district does not grow. This year you will observe an apparent sudden fall of over 400 persons; the 1957 estimated mid-year population being 20,230 and that for 1958 being 19,790. I have discovered that when the Polish Boys' Camp School at Bottisham was closed in 1952 no adjustment was made for the near 500 boys and staff who departed. This year the Registrar General has made the adjustment.

During the year the question of attracting population to the district, which is an extremely pleasant one, was taken up on our behalf by our Member of Parliament with the Board of Trade. I have also drawn the attention of the County Planning Officer to the situation. The attraction of light industry to the area is what is required and it must be hoped that the Board of Trade and others will do their best in this matter.

The birth rate has risen from 16·5 to 17 births per thousand population but the death rate at 9·8 deaths per thousand population has hardly altered.

There has been a slight fall in the infant mortality rate from 19·6 deaths per thousand live births to 16·2. Certain new rates have been requested by the Ministry of Health this year. Very small numbers are involved, nevertheless the well known fact that the illegitimate infant mortality rate is much higher than the legitimate rate is well illustrated.

There was one maternal death during the year the cause of which was unavoidable.

Sanitary Circumstances.

The sections of the report dealing with food hygiene including the provision of slaughter houses and the inspection of meat provide refreshing information and illustrate a satisfactory degree of progress in the food hygiene programme. For a district of its size and population the Council can truly feel a worthwhile job has been done in this vitally important work.

The determined efforts the Council is making to meet the needs of the elderly in its district are very welcome. Special housing at Burwell and Soham is much needed and will provide a useful addition to the accommodation available for the elderly. That the Council now manages nearly 1,800 Council houses means that about one third of its total population is living in houses erected by the Council; a fact not without significance. The drive to eliminate premises unfit for human habitation continues and twenty-seven such properties ceased to be occupied during the year.

The area of the Council's responsibility for supplying water was extended during the year. No difficulty with regard to maintaining the supply arose as another wet Summer was experienced.

Progress with sewerage schemes is good, schemes for Soham and Bottisham being complete, and those for Lode and Longmeadow being well in hand at the end of the year. Schemes for Burwell, Fordham and Dullingham are in preparation.

Care of the Aged.

An interesting experiment in voluntary community care was started in January 1959 by the provision in Soham of meals for old people whose general practitioner considered that the provision of a regular balanced meal for a period of time would be a valuable adjunct to medical care. The genesis of the scheme arose from my attendance at the 1958 Health Congress and after considering my report on the Congress you suggested I should explore the possibility of starting in one or more of the villages a scheme for providing meals, from the School Meals Service, to old people. Soham being the largest centre of population in your area, I approached the general practitioners serving that village and received warm response from them. At their instigation I was put in touch with members of the parish interested in voluntary work. A voluntary committee was set up, funds raised, to which you contributed £30 for the purchase of equipment, and voluntary drivers enlisted. The true cost of the meal is charged by the Education Authority to the voluntary committee who subsidise the cost so that the old people only pay 1/6 per meal. The meal is, of course, only available when the School Meals Service is in operation. I should like to record my thanks to the Chief Education Officer and his staff for their help, to this Council for its support (which I trust it will continue) and finally to the really magnificent response amongst the parishioners of Soham in coming forward to play many and various roles in making this scheme a real success.

Administration.

With the passing of the Local Government Act 1958, and the setting up of Local Government Commissions to review areas of local government in England and Wales the question of the extent of the boundaries of various authorities is once again raised. No doubt 1959 will be a year of considerable polemic. Whatever may be the thoughts and desires of various authorities it should be kept well in mind that the basis of local government in this county stems from a need to provide areas suitable for health administration. There is no higher law than the health of the people and any alterations in areas will, it is hoped, be in the main towards enabling more efficient and adequate services to be run for the benefit of the community.

I should like to thank members of the Council for all their help and encouragement during my term of office. To my colleagues in other departments and in particular to the members of the health department I wish to express my gratitude for their help and loyalty over the years.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER.

June, 1959.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

Live Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	145	293
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	11	16
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>153</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>309</u>

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15·6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1·09)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17·0
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16·4

Still Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>

Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3·2
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21·6

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108	101	209
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10·6
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0·92)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9·8
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11·7

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (2)	2 (1)	4 (3)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	—	1 (1)
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>3 (3)</u>	<u>2 (1)</u>	<u>5 (4)</u>

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets).

Infant Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	16·2
Infant Mortality rate. (England and Wales)	22·5
Neonatal Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	12·9	
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	13·7	
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	62·5	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	5·2%	
Maternal deaths (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	1	
Maternal Mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	3·2	

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Respiratory	..	..	..	..	1 Male	Nil Female	..	..	..	1
Non-Respiratory	..	..	..	..	1 Male	Nil Female	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
*BIRTH RATE..	..	..	..	..	16·6	15·6	14·6	14·5	15·1	15·6
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	9·9	11·5	10·4	10·4	10·4	10·6
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			14·9	44·6	27·2	17·1	19·6	16·2
					(5)	(14)	(8)	(5)	(6)	(5)

*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	9	19
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	12	31
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	28	56
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	48	92
								—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108	101	209
								==	==	==

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health.

"The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements the officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

It is convenient to record here that from 1st January, 1958, your Medical Officer of Health has held an honorary Consultant appointment in social and preventive medicine at Fulbourn Hospital.

Public Health Inspectors.

Mr. Howells continues as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason.

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals.

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital or to the Exning Isolation Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1958.

There is little to comment upon in the table of infectious diseases this year. The two cases of '*poliomyelitis*' were of particular interest. The two school girls affected were friends and both experienced an ankle weakness which, associated with other symptoms at this time, made a diagnosis of acute paralytic poliomyelitis seem the most likely. Hospitalization and investigation revealed, however, that the muscle weakness was one associated with the job of beet singling and complete recovery was made in both cases.

Scarlet Fever.

Twelve cases were reported, mostly in the last quarter, ten of which occurred in the village of Swaffham Prior. Three cases were reported in all last year.

Whooping Cough.

Only three cases as opposed to sixty-one in 1957 were reported.

Measles.

Of the one hundred and forty cases reported the majority occurred in the parish of Soham during the Summer months.

Food Poisoning.

Two cases of *Salmonella typhi-murium* and one case the cause of which was not discovered were reported during the year.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1948-1958.

	Years											
Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total	1958
MEASLES												
Cases ..	57	492	11	176	94	48	94	446	24	100	1,542	140
Deaths ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
WHOOPING COUGH												
Cases ..	52	15	51	101	64	16	86	52	4	61	502	3
Deaths ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Five cases of respiratory and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. Two respiratory cases were transferred to the district previously notified in other areas. On balance at the end of the year there were twenty-two less respiratory and thirteen less non-respiratory cases on the register.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

Section 50.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1958.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Dysentery	Measles	Totals
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
1 — ..	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
2 — ..	1	-	-	-	-	15	16
3 — ..	-	1	-	-	-	16	17
4 — ..	1	-	-	-	-	16	17
5 — 9 ..	9	1	-	-	-	78	88
10 — 14 ..	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	12	3	-	-	-	140	155
1957 TOTALS	3	61	2	1	-	100	167

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 — 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 44 ..	-	-	2	4	-	-	6
45 — 64 ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	1	-	3	4	-	-	8
1957 TOTALS	1	-	-	3	1	-	5

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

		Respiratory Male	Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Female	Total Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	.. ..	44	37	12	15	56	52
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations		4	1	1	—	5	1
3. Cases restored to Register	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—							
(a) Transferred from other Districts	.. ..	—	2	—	—	—	2
(b) From Death Returns	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	.. ..	15	14	6	8	21	22
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year	.. ..	33	26	7	7	40	33

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION. RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.58.

Age Group	Male Resp.	Male Non-Resp.	Female Resp.	Female Non-Resp.	Total Resp.	Total Non-Resp.	Grand Total
0 — 15	3	4	3	1	6	5	11
15 — 25	3	1	4	3	7	4	11
25 — 35	4	1	13	1	17	2	19
35 — 45	12	1	4	1	16	2	18
45 — 55	4	—	1	—	5	—	5
55 — 65	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
65 and over	4	—	1	1	5	1	6
TOTALS	33	7	26	7	59	14	73

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1958:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,276
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Food premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955								210
Miscellaneous food premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	270
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	199
Infectious Disease enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Premises disinfected or disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	505
Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Schools (excluding visits for milk sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Housing Act, 1949 (re Improvement grants)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Nuisances (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
New drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL								<u>3,472</u>

Number of samples taken:—

Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Specimens collected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

PARISH STATISTICS.

Parish	Acreage	Population (1951 Census)	Rateable Value at 1.4.59.	No. of Council Dwellings		1d. Rate Product 1958/59
				Pre-War	Post-War	
ASHLEY	2,225	462	2,117	37	42	7
BURROUGH GREEN	2,272	283	1,284	18	10	5
BOTTISHAM ..	2,854	1363	7,769	31	99	29
BRINKLEY	1,303	169	1,298	—	14	5
BURWELL	7,016	2,304(est.)	24,641	89	163	82
CHEVELEY	2,559	1,348	10,473	17	39	41
CHIPPENHAM ..	4,301	437	3,921	—	20	11
DULLINGHAM ..	3,387	523	2,613	9	34	9
FORDHAM	4,331	1,705	11,309	85	88	39
ISLEHAM	5,230	1,342	6,006	51	76	22
KENNETT	1,431	203	3,435	6	32	11
KIRTLING	3,126	393	1,582	6	14	6
LODE	3,133	595	2,864	27	27	11
REACH	1,126	312(est.)	985	4	18	3
SNAILWELL ..	2,034	325	1,676	2	10	5
SOHAM	12,999	4,865	34,404	191	222	124
STETCHWORTH ..	2,891	475	5,251	8	36	21
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4,110	611	3,385	39	45	12
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4,891	668(est.)	3,425	42	36	12
WESTLEY	1,149	193	658	—	6	3
WICKEN	3,965	665	2,474	19	26	9
WOODDITTON ..	4,768	979	7,995	26	30	28
GAS			347			2
ELECTRICITY E.E. BOARD			2,208			—
ELECTRICITY GENERATING			1,220			—
TOTAL ..	81,101	20,220	143,340	707	1,087	497

HOUSING

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	13
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957	14
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957..	4

REPAIRS.

HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

(4) After informal action by Local Authority	47
(5) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	4
(b) by Local Authority	Nil
(6) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1936	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by Local Authority	Nil

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

Parish	Demolished		Houses Closed		Parts of Buildings Closed	Demolition Orders Made	D.O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	Orders	Undertakings			
ASHLEY ..	11	—	—	2	—	11	—
BOTTISHAM ..	15	12	6	2	1	37	—
BRINKLEY ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
BURROUGH GREEN ..	4	—	1	2	—	4	—
BURWELL ..	10	—	7	3	—	17	1
CHEVELEY ..	2	—	2	3	—	2	—
CHIPPENHAM	1	—	2	2	—	1	—
DULLINGHAM	3	—	1	—	—	4	—
FORDHAM ..	12	—	5	—	—	8	—
ISLEHAM ..	19	—	5	3	—	22	2
KENNETT ..	2	—	1	—	1	1	—
KIRTLING ..	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
LODE ..	3	—	—	1	—	3	1
REACH ..	3	—	—	—	—	6	—
SNAILWELL ..	1	37	1	—	—	2	—
SOHAM ..	38	—	8	3	5	44	2
STETCHWORTH	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4	—	5	3	—	6	—
SWAFFHAM PRIOR ..	8	—	3	—	—	11	—
WESTLEY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATERLESS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WICKEN ..	6	—	1	3	—	7	—
WOODDITTON	8	—	2	1	—	5	—
TOTAL ..	154	49	51	29	7	194	6

85 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and the Council built the following dwellings:—

Three bedroom houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Two bedroom houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Two bedroom old persons' bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
One bedroom old persons' bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
						Total	52

In addition to the above, the Council purchased some sub-standard Almshouses at Stetchworth and converted them into four old persons' dwellings with all modern conveniences. The above details, along with proposals to build old peoples' units at Soham and Burwell, illustrates the determined approach the Council is making towards the satisfactory housing of old people.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1949	104	18	122
1950	38	17	55
1951	112	5	117
1952	72	20	92
1953	137	52	189
1954	110	58	168
1955	140	35	175
1956	124	49	173
1957	36	59	95
1958	52	85	137
Total	925	398	1,323

Council Houses.

The Council now owns 1,794 houses which are under the management of the Council's Surveyor. 162 pre-war houses have been provided with modern amenities and priority is naturally being given to parishes which are provided with a public sewer. It has been the policy of the Council to sell their houses to sitting tenants or other suitable applicants and 36 properties have changed hands since the scheme commenced.

Housing Improvements—Housing Act, 1949.

The above Act provides for the payment of grants of up to 50% of the cost of structural improvements consisting of drainage, sanitary fittings, hot and cold water supplies, improved lighting and ventilation, damp-proofing, etc. During the year, 92 visits were made in this connection and owners were advised on the specified requirements and the procedure involved before they could qualify for a grant.

The following figures are of interest:—

(a)	Number of houses on which improvement grants were paid during 1958	..	..	57
(b)	Amount paid in grants	..	..	£10,190
(c)	Number of properties improved since the Act came into force	..	..	301
(d)	Amount paid in grants on (c)	..	..	£64,819

Moveable Dwellings—Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area. The shortage of housing accommodation has resulted in an increase in the number of caravans used for residential purposes and thirty two annual licences were issued during the year; most of these were "renewals". Several caravans are exempt from the licensing provisions because they are stationed on land attached to dwellings and used by members of the same family or are occupied by casual agricultural workers.

Rent Act, 1957.

Very few enquiries have been received in connection with this Act. Three applications for a Certificate of Disrepair were received and granted.

Clearance of Unfit Dwellings.

Twenty seven houses were either closed or demolished during the year. Every opportunity is given to owners of unfit dwellings to submit reconditioning proposals and, in several instances, prospective purchasers have submitted elaborate modernization schemes which the Council has been pleased to accept.

The fact remains, however, that these dwellings were quite definitely unfit for human habitation and reconditioning is hardly an economic proposition for the private landlord.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses.

As reported last year, a new slaughterhouse was built and came into operation in July, 1958 raising the number of licensed slaughterhouses to six. These premises have been found to be adequate for a very modest throughput and comply with the new Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations.

The previously reported unsatisfactory premises closed down early in 1959 on the completion of a new slaughterhouse, which was no doubt the first to be licensed in the country since the coming into operation of the The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

The owners of three other sub-standard premises have submitted plans shewing their proposals for complying with current legislation after consultations with the Public Health Department. It is difficult to forecast what action will be taken at the sixth slaughterhouse which consists of one room only and used for the occasional slaughter of two pigs.

On completion of the improvements outlined above, the slaughtering facilities in the area will be adequate and meat inspection will be carried out under far better conditions. All animals are thoroughly inspected by a competent staff and again one must report a slight increase in the number of carcasses found to contain C. Bovis Cysts; nine animals were found to be affected as against eight in 1957. The animals slaughtered in the area are generally of first quality, dressed in a manner which gives credit to the butchers concerned.

One thousand two hundred and seventy six visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following table shows the quantity of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Meat and Offal Condemned.

						Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcasses	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	1
Livers ..	..	..	..	..	..	62	45	3
Half Livers	..	..	..	..	..	13	1	—
Lungs ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	4	—
Heads ..	..	..	..	..	..	24	65	—
Kidneys	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	—
Hearts ..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	—
Mesentery	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	—
Skirt ..	..	..	..	..	..	5	—	—
Spleen ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	—

Miscellaneous.

Imported rump 26 lbs.

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part
during the Year 1958.**

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	606	10	21	2214	17	1090	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—							
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	5	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	70	1	—	49	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	11·5	20·0	—	2·4	—	0·36	—
Tuberculosis only:—							
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	—	—	66	1	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4·4	—	—	2·07	5·8	—	—
Cysticercosis:—							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Full co-operation has been maintained between the public health department and most food traders, although it became necessary to take strong action against one recalcitrant baker whose premises were far below the standard required.

Eight hundred and sixty one visits were made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) during the year and the following improvements were recorded:—

New or reconditioned premises	3
Washing facilities improved	13
Improved or new sanitary accommodation ..	10
New drainage systems	10
Improvements to fittings, benches etc. ..	14
General decorations	23
General repairs	9

Modern kitchen facilities have been provided at the new Village College at Soham and a new kitchen and dining centre has been built at the Bottisham Village College to replace the old and inadequate facilities. New dining centres have been provided at eight schools where extensive alterations have been carried out and the unsatisfactory kitchen at Fordham will be replaced in the near future. In response to informal requests, the County Education Officer has kindly improved hand washing facilities at a number of schools where meals are served and the standard of hygiene has been found to be excellent. One large new store is almost completed at Soham and another unsatisfactory shop has been demolished in the same parish.

Registered Food Premises.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

(a)	Sausage and cooked meat premises	15
(b)	Fried Fish Shops	6
(c)	Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	53
(d)	Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream	1

Two hundred and ten visits were made to the above premises during the year.

Ice Cream.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and fifteen were reported as Grade 1. One sample of ice cream which was manufactured in the area was reported as Grade 4 but prompt action followed and all subsequent samples have been Grade 1. One hundred and four visits were made to ice cream premises during the year.

Most of the ice cream sold in the area is manufactured and pre-packed by well known firms.

Milk.

There are no registered dairies in the area, other than those attached to dairy farms. Eleven distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954. Milk production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and we are informed that 34 dairy farms are registered in this area; 27 of these are Tuberculin Tested herds.

Licences.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences issued	15
Supplementary Licences issued	10

Sampling.

Twenty-nine samples of pasteurised milk were collected from schools and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for statutory examination. These were all reported as satisfactory.

Eleven samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination; no evidence of tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus* was found.

Poultry.

There are two establishments in the area used for the slaughtering and dressing of poultry on a commercial scale. One is of small capacity and reasonably well equipped and the standard of hygiene is good. The other establishment, which operates on a larger scale, is unsatisfactory and the owner has decided to build new premises on a suitable site. With the present staff it is quite impossible to carry out a regular inspection of these birds at the time of slaughter.

Licensed Premises.

One hundred and one inspections of public houses were made during the year and the pressure which has been brought to bear over the past five years is now showing satisfactory results.

Complete new drainage systems, sanitary accommodation and glass washing facilities were provided at four premises during the year. According to our records, eleven public houses still rely on pail sanitation but, with one exception, all the premises in the area enjoy a main water supply.

Bakehouses.

Fifty visits were made to the 14 bakehouses during the year and considerable improvements were carried out at three premises in response to informal action.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.

Twenty-four licences were issued to slaughtermen although a number of men concerned are not engaged in regular slaughtering. All slaughtermen were provided with a copy of the new Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations, to come into operation on the 1st January, 1959.

Knacker's Yard.

One old established Knacker's Yard is licensed but very little business is carried on; no horses were slaughtered but six horse carcasses were brought into the premises.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council is now responsible for the supply of water to the Cheveley Park Area and 928 yards of new 6" main was laid from the Warren Hill reservoir during the year and connected to the existing mains network in Ashley Road. With this exception, there has been no change in the arrangements which were reported last year.

Sufficiency of Supply.

The supply to Woodditton and Kirtling was improved by the installation of a second Booster pump at Saxon Street pumping station.

Almost 179 million gallons of water were pumped from the Chippenham and Swaffham Prior Wells, an increase of four million gallons over last year, although the very wet summer reduced the demand during the warmer months. Supplies were maintained without difficulty.

Many cottages still require an indoor water supply and it is hoped that village sewerage will result in the provision of this essential amenity. In the meantime, the Council has announced its intention of removing all public standpipes from areas which are sewered and property owners are being requested to lay on piped supplies.

Chlorination.

All supplies are chlorinated by automatic plant at the source.

Sampling.

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the Public Health and Public Analyst's laboratories.

Water Sampling during 1958.

Sample	Main Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Chemical ..	4	—	—	—	94
Bacteriological	79	4	3	4	

The minor contamination of main supplies received prompt attention and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Shops Act, 1950.

Routine inspections have been made under the provisions of Section 38 relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating of shops where persons are employed. The provision of a sewer at Soham has naturally been followed by improved sanitary accommodation at shops.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A rodent officer is employed by the Council on survey and treatment duties under the provisions of the above Act. A free service is provided to householders but the occupiers of business premises are charged at the rate of 7/6 per hour.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

No licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Advice is given to occupiers on request and where necessary rooms are sprayed with a modern insecticide or treated with a suitable powder. Seven infestations were dealt with during the year. After cases of infectious disease, rooms are disinfected on request.

Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

No nuisances were found in relation to this Act.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

The district is agricultural in character and no smoke nuisances were detected.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council's Engineer reports that a further 104 premises have been connected to the public sewer at Soham and 43 at Bottisham. Property owners bear the full expense of laying the "lateral" from the sewer to their curtilage, where a housing improvement grant is not forthcoming.

The sewerage of Lode and Longmeadow was well in hand at the end of the year and the Council agreed to proceed with Sewerage Schemes for the parishes of Burwell, Fordham and Dullingham. Again it must be reported that the sewage disposal arrangements on the Chippenham and Reach housing estates are grossly inadequate.

Statutory notices were served on property owners, under the provisions of Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring adequate drainage facilities at twenty six dwellinghouses. Six notices had been complied with at the end of the year. Scores of drainage systems, however, have been installed in response to informal approach.

The abolition of vault closets received special attention by the department and good progress was made at Soham. Owners bear the full cost of these conversions but where appropriate they are advised to prepare an improvement scheme with a view to obtaining a substantial grant.

The sewage disposal works at Soham, Bottisham, Stetchworth and Cheveley, along with eighteen treatment plants on housing estates are under the control of the Engineer's Department and the cess-pool emptier is used for the regular desludging of all except two of the works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Household rubbish and salvage is collected and disposed of by direct labour, eight men being engaged on this work, using two Shelvoke and Drewry vehicles. All public cleansing duties, including cesspool emptying, are supervised by a working foreman under the direct control of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Kerbside collections continued during the year at weekly intervals over 50% of the area, the remaining part of the district being cleared fortnightly. Although this service compares favourably with most rural districts, the frequency of collections in some of the more urbanised parishes will require review in the near future.

Rubbish continues to be disposed of by controlled tipping although burning and bulldozing has been remarkably successful at the Burwell Broads Pit. The Woodditton refuse pit was handed over to the Newmarket Urban District Council early in the year but unfortunately a fire took control and they were forced to abandon the pit. In the emergency, all refuse from the Urban District area, covering a population of over 10,000, was carted to the Burwell Broads pit and this practice continued for the rest of the year.

In spite of regular supervision, a nuisance caused by flies and crickets at the Fordham Pit was reported but was quickly controlled by spraying and dusting the surrounding area with a modern insecticide. Rats were satisfactorily dealt with by the Council's Rodent Officer.

In an effort to provide more tipping space, negotiations proceeded for the purchase of a clunch pit at Reach. One old pit at Burwell, which had been used as a controlled tip for fifteen years, was soiled, levelled by bulldozer and handed over to the owners in a satisfactory condition. A small pit at Mildenhall Road, Fordham was filled with rubbish and will in due course be reclaimed for agricultural use.

Collection and Disposal of Rubbish.

Year ended 31st March, 1959.

Number of loads cleared	..	..	..	..	882
Miles travelled	..	..	..	..	16,810
Gallons of fuel used:					
Petrol	..	..	..	..	1,333
Diesel	..	..	..	..	844

Salvaged Materials.

The following materials were baled and salvaged at the Burwell Depot:—

Material	Year ended 31st March, 1959			Year ended 31st March, 1958		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	41	13	3	206	13	3
Ferrous Metals	—	—	—	1	15	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	13	3		19	3	
Rags and Sacking	2	13	2	1	19	2
Sundries						
TOTALS	45	1	0	322	3	4
				69	1	2
				439	13	10

The selling price of mixed waste paper was reduced by 1/- to 4/- per cwt. in October. Although baling continues on a small scale, it is no longer an economic proposition and householders are encouraged to burn as much as possible.

Nightsoil Collection.

Many pail closets are still emptied in small back gardens but plans are going ahead embodying the sewerage of more villages which will do much to overcome this problem. The Council has not undertaken the collection of nightsoil but a private contractor is available.

Cesspool Emptying.

The "Shelvoke and Drewry" cesspool emptier continues to do excellent work although a major overhaul was necessary during the year.

The following statistics are of interest:—

Year ended 31st March, 1959.

(a) Council house cesspools cleared	..	..	..	678
(b) Private cesspools cleared	..	..	..	466
(c) Number of loads from (a)	..	..	..	1,171
(d) Number of loads from (b)	..	..	..	552
(e) Mileage	..	..	..	8,879
(f) Fuel used	..	..	..	gallons 1,804
(g) Charges—one load	..	..	..	£1 10s. 0d.
additional loads	..	..	..	15s. 0d.

The charge for clearing private cesspools was reduced on 1st April, 1958 to the above rate and the result has been an increase of 36% in the number of loads cleared from private cesspools. The cesspool emptier is used for the desludging of small sewage disposal plants but it is still necessary to engage a private contractor to assist with this work during busy periods. We are indebted to the Public Health Department of the Chesterton Rural District Council for the loan of their vehicle on a number of occasions at short notice.

The disposal of sewage still creates a serious problem, but the Bottisham sewer was again used for the disposal of many gallons which had been pumped from cesspools in the vicinity.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power)	5	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power)	61	104	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	66	104	4	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	7	7	—	—	—

